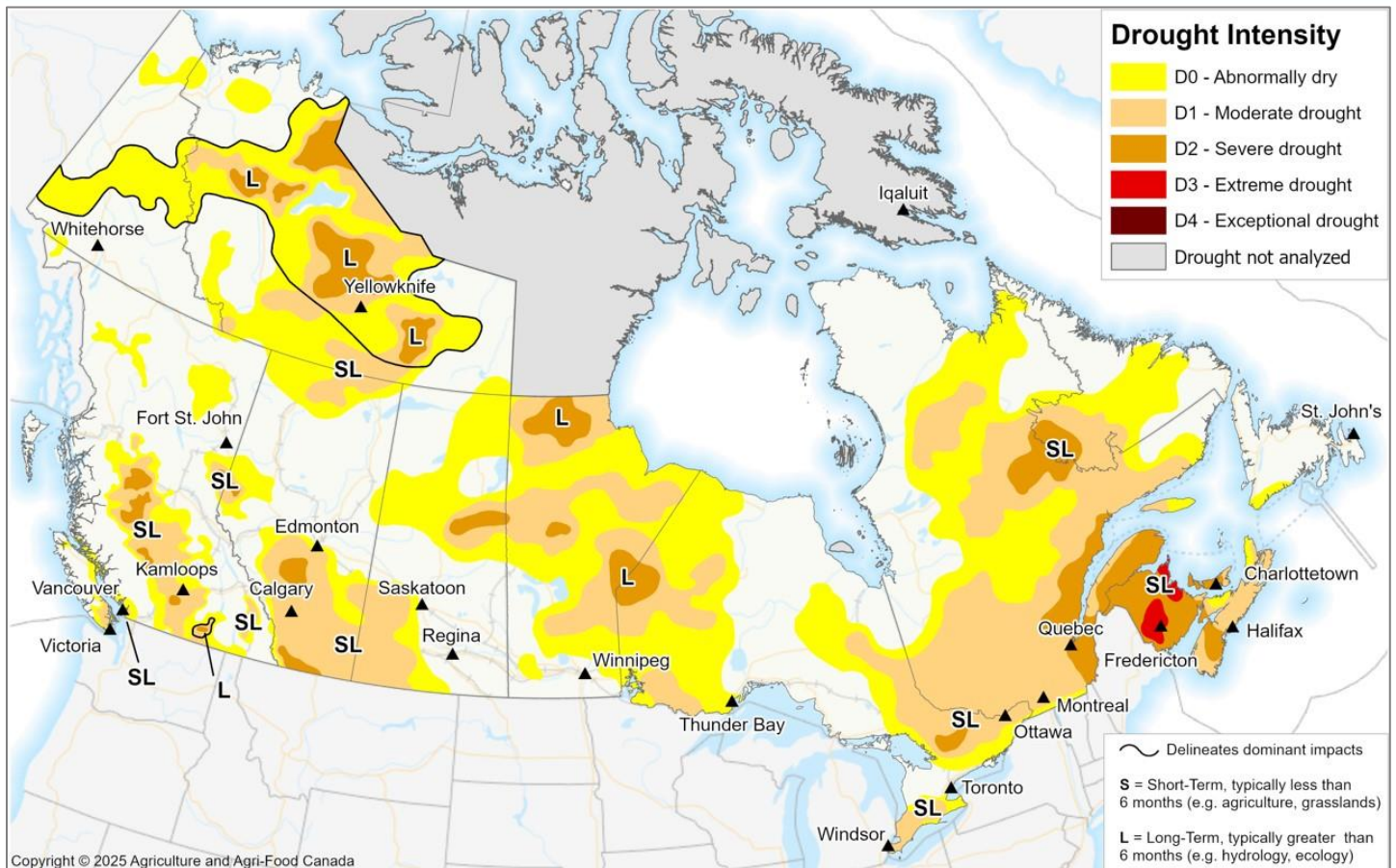


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of February 28, 2026



Precipitation throughout Canada in February was highly variable. Western Canada, apart from south-central British Columbia, received near to well above normal precipitation while in Eastern Canada below to well below normal precipitation was recorded. Temperatures were generally above normal across the country except for the Northern Region where temperatures were below normal in February. Above normal precipitation throughout much of western Canada generally improved drought conditions. However well above normal temperatures in the southern prairies reduced snowpack increased Evaporations and sublimation resulting in significant moisture loss and increasing drought extent and severity. Continued precipitation deficits through much of eastern Canada, drought conditions continued, with some areas seeing increasing severity in drought conditions. Despite worsening conditions through much of Eastern Canada there was one noteworthy area of improvement The northern portion of Southern Ontario saw slightly above normal precipitation monthly precipitation; February



precipitation in combination with longer term precipitation has resulted in moderate improvement in drought conditions.

At the end of the month, 53% of the country was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3), including 60% of the country's agricultural landscape.

Pacific Region (BC)

In February, the northern half of British Columbia, received above normal precipitation, while below normal precipitation and warmer than normal temperatures continued throughout the southern interior. The majority of northern British Columbia received 120-200% of normal precipitation for the month. In contrast, parts of the Southern Interior, including the Thompson–Okanagan, received less than 40% of normal precipitation. Climate stations at Vernon and Kelowna recorded less than 25% of normal, with Vernon reporting its fifth-driest February on record. Precipitation deficits were particularly pronounced across the Okanagan, Similkameen, and Nicola regions, continuing a multi-year drought trend and contributing to below-normal water levels in Okanagan Lake. Snowfall totals were also below normal at most stations across the province, with several low-elevation coastal stations. Vancouver, Abbotsford, Victoria, and Nanaimo, recorded no measurable snowfall in February. Poor snowfall and snowpack through February heighten concerns for spring or summer water deficits. Temperatures during the month were slightly above normal across much of the south, with the warmest anomalies extending along the eastern border and into the southern Peace region, while coastal areas and Vancouver Island experienced near-normal temperatures, and the far northeast around Fort Nelson was slightly cooler than normal.

As a result of continued precipitation deficits and warmer than normal temperatures through much of southern British Columbia, drought conditions persisted or worsened in the Southern Interior while coastal areas remained largely unchanged. On Vancouver Island and the south coast, most areas received 85 to 115% of normal precipitation, although drier pockets receiving 40 to 85% of normal precipitation occurred across the northern and southern tips of Vancouver Island, and portions of the south coast. These conditions led to a slight expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions. Below normal precipitation and warm temperatures through the Southern Interior, contributing to an expansion of D0 along the eastern edge bordering the Thompson–Okanagan region, while existing D0 and D1 conditions were maintained. The Thompson–Okanagan region experienced the most notable deterioration in drought conditions, particularly in the South Thompson, Nicola, Similkameen, and Okanagan Valley, where precipitation totals failed to reach 50% of normal amounts in many locations. In contrast, northern portions of the Thompson–Okanagan received near to well above normal precipitation, including localized areas exceeding 200% of normal, which contributed to improvements and a reduction in Abnormally Dry (D0) extent. In the Kootenay region, most areas received 85 to 120% of normal precipitation, leading to an overall reduction in the Abnormally Dry (D1) extent.

Across central and northern British Columbia, above-normal precipitation led to overall improvements in drought conditions, though some localized dryness remained. In the Central Interior, precipitation was generally near to above normal, with southern areas receiving 85 to 120% of normal and northern areas exceeding 85%, including a wetter swath in the northeast with over 120% of normal. Despite these conditions, long term deficits remain significant, and the Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) coverage remained largely unchanged. The Nechako region received above-normal precipitation, resulting in a slight reduction in D0–D2 conditions in southern portions. Further north, significant improvements were observed across Northern BC, including the Peace River, North Coast, and northern Nechako regions, where 85 to 200% of normal precipitation was received, with localized pockets exceeding 200% of normal. These wetter conditions led to a substantial reduction in Abnormally Dry (D0) coverage across the north, including the removal of Moderate (D1) conditions in the northeastern corner of the Peace region. In the southern Peace region near Dawson Creek, Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) conditions were reduced following above-normal precipitation. Along the North Coast, improved moisture conditions reduced Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions and led to the removal of most remaining Moderate Drought (D1) areas, reflecting improved short-term moisture across the region.

At the end of the month, 31% of the Pacific Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3), including 63% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Most of the Prairie Region experienced above-normal precipitation during February, with large portions of the region receiving 115% to more than 200% of normal. Several stations—including Fort Chipewyan (AB), Prince Albert (SK), and The Pas (MB) recorded monthly totals exceeded double the normal precipitation. In contrast, southern Alberta and parts of southwestern Saskatchewan remained comparatively dry, with precipitation totals below 85% of normal and localized pockets receiving less than 60%. Mean monthly temperatures were generally warmer than normal across the southern Prairies, with anomalies reaching up to 6 °C above normal in southern Saskatchewan, while northern areas were closer to normal, and parts of northern Alberta and northwestern Saskatchewan were up to 4 °C below normal. Snow cover was initially reduced during early February due to warm, dry conditions, but late-month winter storms increased snowfall across much of the region, bringing totals back to near or above normal in many areas. Although winter precipitation through the Prairie Provinces has been generally above normal, episodic temperatures well above freezing have significantly reduced the snowpack and resulted in substantial water loss through sublimation and evaporation.

In Southern Alberta, most areas received 85% to 200% of normal, while southernmost areas near the U.S. border remained drier, receiving less than 60% of normal precipitation. Low precipitation, warmer than normal temperatures and significant evaporation and sublimation resulted in a significant expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) across parts of south-central and southeastern Alberta, while Severe Drought (D2) expanded slightly in the drier southwest corner. Despite these ongoing deficits, recent snowfall and improved mountain snowpack have

raised expectations for normal to above-normal spring and summer streamflow in major river basins. Low snowpack this winter has raised concerns among dryland farmers about soil moisture and grazing conditions heading into the growing season. In Central Alberta, precipitation totals were generally above 120% of monthly normals, with localized pockets exceeding 200%, resulting in reductions in Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions across several areas. However, some localized expansions of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Severe Drought (D2) occurred where longer-term precipitation deficits remain. In Northern Alberta, precipitation was also above normal; 85 to 200% of normal, with wetter pockets exceeding 200% in the northeast. As a result, Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) extents were reduced, and Severe Drought (D2) was removed in northern areas bordering the Northwest Territories, with a notable reduction of Severe Drought (D2) in the Peace River region.

In Southern Saskatchewan, western areas received 40 to 115% of normal precipitation, with a particularly dry pocket near Kindersley receiving less than 40%. Eastern areas received 120% to over 200% of normal precipitation. Poor precipitation, combined with significantly warmer than normal than normal temperatures, and a substantial reduction in snowpack, led to expansion of the Abnormally Dry (D0) and development of Moderate Drought (D1). Improved moisture conditions in the eastern region allowed some areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) to be removed. In Central Saskatchewan, widespread precipitation totals exceeding 120% of normal, including areas above 200%, contributed to reductions in the extent of Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) conditions. Although conditions improved overall, some drought classifications remain where long-term deficits persist. Extreme Drought (D3) was removed near La Ronge while Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) coverage was significantly reduced. In Northern Saskatchewan, similarly wet conditions (greater than 120% of normal precipitation) led to reductions in Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions and the removal of Moderate Drought (D1), while a pocket of Severe Drought (D2) in the northeast was removed following precipitation totals exceeding 200% of normal.

In Southern Manitoba, precipitation totals were generally near to above normal (85 to 120%), with localized areas receiving 120 to 200% of normal, resulting in a reduction in the extent of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. In Central Manitoba, precipitation totals were well above normal, with many areas receiving more than 120% and locally over 200% of normal precipitation. These wetter conditions led to reductions in Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) coverage and the removal of an Extreme Drought (D3) pocket in east-central Manitoba, though some localized dry pockets remain where longer-term deficits persist. In Northern Manitoba, similarly wet conditions (greater than 120% of normal precipitation) contributed to reductions in Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) extents and the removal of an Extreme Drought (D3) pocket, reflecting overall improvement in drought conditions across much of the northern portion of the province.

At the end of the month, 58% of the Prairie Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3), including 47% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Cooler-than-normal temperatures prevailed across eastern and southern Ontario and southern Quebec in February, while near-normal to slightly warmer-than-normal conditions were observed across northwestern Ontario and northern Quebec. Precipitation was generally below average across much of the region, with widespread deficits across southern Quebec where totals were often less than 60% of normal. Northern Quebec also experienced largely dry conditions, contributing to long-term precipitation deficits across several areas of the Central Region.

Northwestern Ontario received near- to above-normal precipitation (85% to over 200% of normal), resulting in a reduction of Moderate Drought (D1) coverage in parts of the region. However, the Rainy River area remained drier (60% to 115% of normal), and existing Moderate Drought (D1) conditions persisted as recent precipitation was insufficient to fully alleviate longer-term deficits. Northeastern Ontario was drier overall, receiving 40% to 85% of normal precipitation with localized pockets below 40% around the Timmins area, maintaining ongoing dryness. Much of central and eastern Ontario received below-normal precipitation ranging from 60% to 85% of normal, with pockets of 40% to 60%. Despite lingering precipitation deficits, recent precipitation helped remove a small area of Severe Drought (D2) in central Ontario; however, Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate Drought (D1) conditions remained across the region.

Western Ontario received near-normal precipitation (60% to 115%), allowing for the removal of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in some areas. In contrast, southern Ontario remained notably dry, receiving 40% to 60% of normal precipitation, with very dry pockets along the southernmost tip receiving less than 40% of normal. As a result, Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions persisted across much of the region. Despite dryness, winter conditions brought notable snowfall to some areas, including the Waterloo Region which recorded over 206 cm of snowfall this winter, more than double the seasonal average. Rapid snowmelt combined with rainfall in mid-February increased flood risk across parts of southern Ontario, including the Kitchener–Waterloo, Guelph, and Halton regions. While seasonal snowmelt has begun raising some Great Lakes levels, all five lakes remain below long-term averages, reflecting ongoing regional drought conditions.

Precipitation was generally below normal in February, particularly across southeastern Quebec and the Gaspé Peninsula where totals fell below 40% of normal. These persistent deficits led to an expansion of Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) conditions across parts of southern Quebec. Northern portions of the province received near- to above-normal precipitation, generally ranging from 60% to 115% of normal. These improved moisture conditions resulted in a slight reduction in Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) areas across parts of northern Quebec.

At the end of the month, 63% of the Central Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1) to (D3), including 85% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

The Atlantic Region received below normal precipitation through February, with near normal temperatures trending warmer than normal in eastern coastal areas and slightly cooler than normal in southwestern Nova Scotia. Much of New Brunswick received less than 40% of normal precipitation while portions of Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Labrador, and Nova Scotia reported that less than 40 to 60% of normal precipitation.

With much of the Maritime region recording below to well below normal precipitation in February, most regions continued to see Severe Drought (D2). Increased snowfall through the region, rather than rain, will ultimately improve the drought situation; however, at this time the snowfall is not enough to make a positive change in drought class. In New Brunswick, below normal monthly precipitation in combination with long-term precipitation deficits resulted in the expansion of Severe (D2) and Extreme drought (D3) conditions through much of the province. Fredericton, Woodstock, and Truro reported their driest Februarys on record with values between 14 and 27% of normal precipitation. These conditions contributed to the dry streak over the region, with New Brunswick experiencing its ninth consecutive month of below normal precipitation. Drought conditions in PEI, Labrador and Nova Scotia remained mostly unchanged in February except for a slight expansion of Severe drought (D2) conditions in the southwest. Precipitation was mostly near to below normal for the region, with western Labrador and southern Newfoundland reporting near 25% of normal values. Coastal Labrador and northern and eastern Newfoundland reported near to above normal values, with St. John's reported 126% of normal precipitation. At the end of month, snow depths were near to above normal across most of Newfoundland and Labrador. In Newfoundland, drought conditions continued to improve with Abnormally Dry (D0) area over St John's removed due to improvement in long-term precipitation over winter, while Moderate Drought (D1) was removed and the Abnormally Dry (D0) area reduced along the southwestern coast.

At the end of the month, 55% of the Atlantic Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1) to (D3), including 91% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Over the past month, precipitation across much of the Northern Region was well above normal, contributing to some improvement in drought conditions. In the Yukon, most areas received 120 to 200% of normal precipitation, with particularly wet conditions across southern and central regions. Several stations reported exceptionally high totals for February, including Burwash (260% of normal), Dawson (373%), and Whitehorse (238%), while a large stretch of

southern Yukon received more than 300% of normal precipitation. Many stations ranked among their top ten wettest Februarys on record, with Dawson and Carmacks recording their second wettest February. Temperatures across the Yukon were generally near normal, ranging from slightly above to slightly below average. Snow depth remained consistently above normal in southern Yukon. In the Northwest Territories, precipitation was also generally near to above normal, with most regions receiving 85 to 120% of normal precipitation, and areas along the Yukon border exceeded 120% of normal. However, drier conditions persisted in the northeastern parts of the territory, where precipitation ranged from 40 to 85% of normal.

In the Yukon, widespread above-normal precipitation contributed to improvements in drought across several regions; however long-term moisture deficits remain in many regions. In southern Yukon, the extent of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions was reduced, following significant precipitation, including 238% of normal precipitation at Whitehorse. However, Abnormally Dry (D0) persists in parts of southwestern Yukon. In central Yukon, drought conditions improved, with reduced Abnormally Dry (D0) coverage and the removal of Moderate Drought (D2) east of Mayo, supported by a broad swath of above-normal precipitation. In northern Yukon, drought conditions remained unchanged, with Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions retained around the Old Crow area, where precipitation totals were lower than in the rest of the territory. Despite improvements in precipitation and snowpack, hydrological indicators remain mixed, with some lake levels measuring well below average. Tagish Lake has fallen below its historical range recorded since 1995, while Marsh Lake recorded the lowest level of the past decade. However, freeze-up water levels on major rivers remain near average.

In the Northwest Territories, above normal precipitation helped alleviate meteorologic drought in some regions, though hydrological conditions remain concerning in many areas. Across the southern and central Northwest Territories, the extent of drought conditions from Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe drought (D2) decreased. However, pockets of Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) persist east and northeast of Great Slave Lake, where drier conditions persisted. In the northern Northwest Territories, conditions also improved slightly, with a small reduction in Abnormally Dry (D0) coverage, a reduction in Moderate Drought (D1) extent, and the removal of some localized Severe Drought (D2) areas. However, Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) persist east and north of Great Bear Lake, reflecting continued precipitation deficits in those regions. Hydrological impacts remain notable across the territory; as of mid-February, water levels and flow rates remain very low across most of the Northwest Territories. Great Slave Lake, Great Bear Lake, and major rivers, including the Hay, Liard, Slave, and Mackenzie, remain below average, with Great Bear Lake at its lowest level for this time of year, highlighting ongoing longer-term moisture deficits despite recent precipitation improvements.

At the end of the month, 45% of the Northern Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate (D1) to Extreme Drought (D3).